

Subject: KOJI KANEMOTO! beats the crap out of KA SHIN! JUSHIN THUNDER LIGER! rips it up with MADDOG BUZZ SAWYER! AKIRA TAUE! goes all Luchaesque on JOHNNY ACE! DICK TOGO! and SUPER BOY! are too cool 2b b-lieved! and nCon II moments to treasure...sniff...

ALOHA~!

Welcome to DEATH VALLEY DRIVER VIDEO REVIEW #62!

This is the special nCon II batch tearful jabbering with special moments shared by the funtabulous folks who permeate this wacky corner of cyberspace as we all decided to experience each other in "real time" "Face to face" all watching King Kong Bundy try to put the Blast on "assorted" Hooter girls and what have you; interspersed between assorted reviews. That darn Schneider boy is back with his youthful take on the world of wrestling tapes, so hats off to the young punk- Shark Tsuchiya jokes are forthcoming. Everything I reveiw is given to me by the grace of GLENN! Everything that Phil reviewed was by the grace of Lorefice (READ QUEBRADA! IT KICKS MORE ASS BEFORE LUNCH THAN EVERYBODY ELSE KICKS ALL DAY!) WOO-HOO!

!@!@!@!@!@!@ ALL JAPAN TV 11/9/97

Sometimes you just gotta make a stand, so here it goes: If you're not on the Akira Taue bandwagon why don't you get on board, get with the system and get a part in the Big Win. If you're on the fence about Johnny Ace- thinking he's overrated and a poor man's Steve Williams- get your head out of your heinie and WATCH Akira Taue vs Johnny Ace. THIS is how you do a good wrestling match- ponderous yet unrelenting, highspotless yet acton packed, totally stoic but filled with emotion- this is he distilled ethos of All Japan Wrestling. Sure, Misawa, Kobashi, Kawada, Williams and Akiyama have hotter moves and Sure, those guys are all spunkier and are houses afire and what not- but this match is 200% psychology and you can forget sometimes that great psychology can make up for nine consecutive Dangerous Backdrops so you need these kind of matches. Not that this is a pantywaiste affair, but ANY move would have worked at this level of selling and pacing and stiffness. There is a whole lot to love about this match- Ace-Crushers, Face-Crushers, Ace's CobraClutch Suplex (which HAS to totally suck it for whoever has to to suplexed), Taue's Ode to Jumbo Tsuruta jumping Phat Ass Kick to the Head, the Akira Taue TOTALLY SWANK Ode to Ciclon Ramirez Old School Tope- I freakin LOVED this match and loved it even MORE the second time I watched it. This builds to a white hot pinnacle as the nearfalls drive the unsuspecting crowd into a frenzy, Ace hits a transition move to take it home only to be crossed up by the Dynamic one countering it with a more devastating move reversing the transition. Akira Taue rules the fucking world and so does Johnny Ace, and this match is for those who forgot about that.

-dhr!

NCon II Moment: During the 48 minute intermission at the wrestling match in Plymouth's Meeting, PA, the Hooter Girls are raffling off crappy t-shirts all the while flirting and teasing King Kong Bundy who is hawking polaroids of himself with unsuspecting youngsters. Ray, Steve, Phil, Scott and I try to think of what kind of Coalminer's Glove On A Pole Match the Hooter's girl's could have since they are all in the ring there and stuff. My faves were "Beautician's License on a pole match" and "Restraining Order on a Pole Match." I'm thinking it would have been an AWA 70's battleroyal match if it was "Reba Tickets on a pole match" but who can be sure. After a while, the HooterGirls are still in the ring and inexplicably signing autographs ("Thank You for staring at my really big breasts, Love, Heather.") and giving the kids hugs as well afterwards. Ray wants to go down to ring side and see if he can get a hug without actually getting an autograph, because, hey! everyone needs a hug. Cooler heads prevail, unfortunately.:)

%%\$%%\$% FRONTIER MARTIAL WRESTLING 4/29/97

Hayabusa v. Mr. Gannoseke (Hair v. Mask):

By far the best match on the card, and worlds above any match Mr. Gannosucky has ever wrestled in his intensely medicore career. For so long, Hayabusa was a Sabu-ish spot machine and had to be carried by better wrestlers to good matches (Something Hitsakatsu Ooya was the king at), but stick him with a medicore or poor wrestler and you're in a world of shit (Koji Nakagawa, Jinsei Shinzaki). This match was great and it sure wasn't Mr. who was carrying this sucker. Those trips to All Japan have boosted Hayabusa's skill level ten fold. In the coolest spot in the match, Hayabusa suplexes Gannoseke as they are both standing on the ring apron and Gannoseke's head smacks against the apron on the way down; Hayabusa then hits his super fresh Tope Con Hilo. Gannoseke and Busa both bust out some pretty cool suplexes in the ring and Hayabusa does a bunch of his cool in-ring dives. He gets the win with a nasty Falcon Arrow (suplex into a Michinoku Driver II). The end is all Memphisy as Hayabusa says somethin like "Hey Ganny come over here and give me a hug and you won't have to shave your pretty hair" and Gannoseke pretends to hug him, then jumps him and stomps him, rips his mask off and Hayabusa starts crying like a sissy boy, and as they are about to set his ass on fire, Shinzaki runs out and stands around praying and shit (Shinzaki's match with Leatherface earlier in the card was Mercifully Clipped). Hayabusa without his mask on looks like a heroin addicted male prostitute, with a death-like pallor and sunken features. He better stay out of mask v. anything matches cause he's got keep that sucker on his creepy and disturbing face. Great match but Gannoseke not getting his head shaved after a mask v. hair match blows and is the kind of thing that would get your whole family killed in Mexico.

Terry Funk/ Cactus Jack/ Gladiator v. Onita/ Tanaka/ W*ING Kanemura:

This should have been way better. You have four great wrestlers who can brawl like motherfuckers, and two legends who are always fun in this type of match and you end up with something no better than a Fuyuki + Gedo + Jedo streetfight (their match earlier was also Mercifully Clipped). No selling, no build, no psychology- just a bunch of shit strewn together for

twenty minutes. There were a couple of good spots- the Gladiator tope, a couple of Tanaka suplexes , a top rope powerbomb through a table but it just looked kind of like that ECW four way thing at Hardcore Heaven but you didn't have Joel Gertner or Tommy Rich. Cactus mailed it in, which is a shame because here was a guy who had ****+ brawls with Van Hairdresser and the fucking Nasty Boys. He's the garbage miracle worker and he should have taken control of this thing, but he might as well have been Kuroda in this match. Funk shows that he is certifiable by trying a moonsault from the top that nearly transferred his social security checks to his widow. Kanemura gets the pin with the chair elbow drop. A big, big disappointment.

Shark Tsuchiya v. Megumi Kudo (Landmine+ Barbwire Spidernet + Double Hell Death ... blah blah match):

Kudo takes a hellacious beating- including getting thrown face first into the barbwire, taking a powerbomb off the ring apron into the land mine and getting her hair set on fire. Shark takes one pretty good bump but just stinks up the joint for the rest. She is attempting to be Dump Matsumoto but she just doesn't have any heat. Not a good match but kind of worth watching as a triumph of the will- a "what one person can endure" kind of thing. It is a shame that Kudo didn't go to GAEA or JWP where she could actually wrestle instead of just getting mauled like this. I hope Aja breaks Shark's jaw.

-phil!

NCon II Moment: Steve navigates us to a Delaware (the Expensive Toll State) reststop because I was about to eat my own foot. We pile out of the car and go to the Roy Rogers restaurant. Roy Rogers jumps out from behind the counter and secretly shoot me in the stomach with his special grease-enriched hollow point, fatboy-killer bullets. I mean... I'm guessing that's what happened. By the time Tom Brandy and Jim Powers were put over by the far more talented Jimmy Cicero and Corporal Punishment, the blood had filled my body cavity and I no longer wanted to live.

@#@@#@#@#@# MICHINOKU PRO TV 11/15/97 taped from 10/25 - 11/2

Yone Genjin/ Perro Russo vs Dick Togo/ Super Boy:

Y'know, it's real easy to get annoyed with Yone Genjin- he dresses like a taller TAZ, doesn't really do any moves really well, is deeply not any threat to anyone with his half-assed high-flying- BUT he's REALLY not afraid to take a super-colossal Dukakis-size Ass Stomping- and, lucky for him, Dick Togo and Super Boy were right there willing to serve one up. Dick Togo went deeply into his well of moves (HELL! He trained all these guys, didn't he?) and decided to use the most kicky, hurty moves on Caveboy. My personal faves were the spinning heel kicks and the SUPERGORGEOUS Standing Back Somersault Heelkick which just HAD to suck eggs for the little whimsical whipping boy. Dick being (a) Dick follows that fat-ass move up with a Dangerous Backdrop to further kill the corpse. Super Boy has the Coolest mask on earth- with the Blue and White Togo Logo skulls on the side. SB hits the second rope moonsault which whomped super ass and hits other moves that are truly amazing considering what a big fat gut

he's sporting. A true inspiration to us all. Perro Russo is quite the non-descript wrestler who is moderately okay but just doesn't distinguish himself by leaning into an ass-kicking like Yone does. Togo with a Fatter than the Realm of Fat Ass Senton.

Magic Man vs Jinsei Shinzaki:

Holy Shit! What is this crap? Magic Man hypnotizes Shinzaki. Unfortunately he doesn't subliminally implant the message- "Try Working For Once, You Lazy Batch Of Crap." Boy. Magic Man is full of whimsy and childlike wonder. Boy. I'd really like to see Chris Benoit vs the Magic Man. Boy. That would be good. I'd bet Chris wouldn't let Magic Man hypnotize him. Boy. I bet Benoit would beat the whimsy and childlike wonder out of him and I'd get to watch. This match was worse than the worst thing you EVER saw on GLOW.

Gran Hamada/ Yakushiji vs Tiger Mask IV/ Hoshikawa:

The TigerMask IV that we all know and love is back in this baby, screwing up moves and being an all-around pansy-assed drag. Hoshikawa gets all cute with Yakushiji, avoiding his super strongpoints of fabulous suplexes and skullcrushing kicks- vying to hang with Yakushiji in the air, which exposes the weakness of Yakushiji's in-ring Lucha moves when he's not doing them with Rudo's Rudo Dick Togo and shows that he's also limited in that he can't wrestle the type of match that Hoshikawa wrestles- which would have been have good. Hoshikawa is a budding super-stiff worker and Yakushiji is the unthreatening budding sub-lucha aerialist. TigerMask IV is not good in this one, Hamada mails it in and the ref blows the finish. Not good. Nope.

Great Sasuke/ Super Delfin vs MEN'S Teioh/ & Funaki:

This mama rocked me like a hurricane. Steinerized Delfin is still fast as shit and hits everything nigh perfect in this baby. MEN'S and Funaki beat the fudge out of the former job-boy to Aldo Montoya. Funaki is made up to look like the bass player for Adam and the Ants with the Indian Warpaint and beads and stuff, which you GOTTA love (Stand and DELIVER! BRUSH ME DADDY-O! ah crap...), and the former BattlArts ne'er-do-well is all spunky and feisty in this, looking about as good as I've ever seen him look- flying into leg submissions, pounding on King of Bad Business Decisions like there is no tomorrow, looking like he actually deserves to hang out with Dick Togo. Teioh is the Lovable Redneck Prick we've all come to love and he and Delfin pretty much tear it up for a while there. No furcoats, but maybe he left it in the Camero next to the wine coolers. Delfin is hellbent for leather in this one, and the Togo vs Delfin rematch is gonna kick ass and I can't wait. Speeches galore afterwards, just like the good old days (like back in June 97).

-dhr!

A nCon II moment: Pennsylvania in their infinite wisdom has decided to put TWO exit 25s on rt 476, so we end up at a service station in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Ray and Steve get directions and Phil and I wait by the car. While Steve is verballing the directions to me, a gun-toting loner gives us a helping hand by giving us his own special obscenity-laced brand of

directions. We listen intently and they work. I later lament that we should have just asked him where he was going and asked for directions to the "other place."

@#@#@#@# BEST OF JUSHIN THUNDER LIGER-Top of the Super Juniors

There were a whole lot of matches on this tape and I can't review them all, but here are the highlights/lowlights. Most of these matches are older, and it is real interesting to see what a big time highflyer Liger used to be. I know that sounds kind of silly, but I had seen so much of him in Japan recently where he rules it so hard in the ring with suplexes, palm thrusts and just plain old kick ass stiff wrestling, barely flying at all, it seems kind of strange to see him doing Asai moonsaults, tope con hilos and rolling sentons to the floor.

Manny "The Bull" Fernandez/Buzz Sawyer/ Big Van Vader v. Jushin Liger/ Kengo Kimura/Ricki Choshyu:

I hadn't seen Buzz Sawyer in a long time and I had forgotten what a great wrestler he was. He was in for most of the exchanges with Liger and hung with him all the way showing crazy speed for someone so chubbed out. He almost looked like a American Dick Togo- a big time ass kicker with a beer belly who could move like nobody's business. Vader proved what a king he used to be selling real well for Liger- which is really all you can ask for a big monster heel, and is a big reason Vader ruled while- for example- Earthquake did not. Vader took a great baseball slide dropkick that sent him smashing hard into the guardrail, causing him to do the classic Vader freakout where he just tears shit up outside, which made me nostalgic for my youth. Manny kind of stayed out of the way, looking around for Shaska Whatley or something. Liger was all fast and quick but didn't really breakout the flashy stuff as this match was mostly about Choshu v. Vader, he was wearing the old outfit, which I am the only person in the world who actually likes. Choshu was Choshu, Kimura was Kimura, with all that that entails.

Jushin Liger/ OZ v. Hiro Saito/ Scott Norton:

That ain't a typo, OZ the most lamentable of Kevin Nash's lamentable pre-Diesel gimmicks was right there on my TV screen, on New Japan TV, ON A MUTHAFUCKIN BEST OF JUSHIN LIGER TAPE, Holy spreadable cheese on cracker. It was as grand as we all remember- frosted blond hair, comical removable wizard mask, lime green tights with OZ on the boots, really crappy wrestling. Liger tried to mix it up with Saito, and Hiro did his best, and- if he was good, it would have been good, but he ain't, so it wasn't. Liger spent most of the match selling for Norton who really didn't sell for him. Everyone keeps talking about all these great matches Norton has had in Japan but I can't seem to remember any, so screw him- he's a roided out stiff and that's that. OZ hits some big boots and wins with a crappy Argentinian back breaker and goes on to bigger (and only mildly better) things.

Brian Pillman/Jushin Liger v. Chris Benoit/Beef Wellington:

This is from the NWA tag tourney and it kicked major ass. I was at camp when this thing first aired so this is my first look at this badboy. WCW let this go for along time and it was paced real well with all four guys working their asses off. Highlights included Pillman suplexing Benoit from

the inside of the ring to the floor, Beef taking all kinds of righteous old school bumps including a Psycosis-like Over The Turnbuckle Straight To the Concrete hip buster, Pillman and Beniot exchanging bruising chops on the outside, Liger hitting a dope plancha and an ass- kicking Asai moonsault which I had never seen him do before and for which the crowd popped like madmen, and the pinnacle- a Brian Pillman second rope backdrop driver which landed Beniot FLUSH ON HIS FREAKING NECK nastier than damn near anything else ever on TBS. Wellington got real blown up near the end- muffing some stuff, but that was easily overlooked because of the bumps he was taking earlier and the overall rockingness of this match. The best non-Flair match in the history of the Clash of the Champions, get your grubby hands on this.

Top of the Super J 3 highlights:

All of the TV coverage of this tourney, most of the matches were really clipped. The highlights of the non-Liger stuff was a green Koji Kanemoto getting a win over Negro Casas and being all happy and facesque about it. The surliness makes all the difference. Liger had three tourney matches that were shown with some length. The best was the first match against El Samurai, who had an all black mask which was way cooler then the mediocre black and red thing he wore for so long. Highlights of this include a Samurai tope con hilo that lands him in the first row. He doesn't hit Liger that clean, but absolutely nails a woman in the first row who didn't have the sense to move out of the way when Sammy started flying. Liger hit a twisting top rope clothesline that was absolutely top drawer. Samurai wins this one with a hurricanrana which was much more impressive before valets started doing them. Liger had a match against Honaga where he powerbombed Honaga threw a table, the rest of the match slips my memory. He also had a neat little match with Fit Finlay, who beats the crap out of Liger much more then he did in any of their previous matches, using the elbow to the throat while Liger head is on the ring apron thing which I love so much. Liger does alot of flying and stuff to counter, which is not nearly as cool as if he had just beat the hell out of Finlay. If they did Liger v. Finlay now it would rule harder then it did back then, because Liger's style has changed to a much more mat based one, and he's not afraid to work much stiffer now then he did back then.

El Samurai v. Jushin Liger Top of the Super J final:

They showed all of this and it was NUMBER ONE AND THE BEST. They start with El Samurai jumping Liger and tossing him out of the ring, he grabs a glass bottle and starts pasting Liger with it, then he tombstones him on the floor. This is an homage to the classic Dynamite Kid v. Tiger Mask match (which I also saw on Saturday) and it was nicely done. Sammy throws him back in and starts ripping at his mask. Liger then goes nuts and starts palm thrusting Samurai and rips his mask clean off (good thing to because it was the silver one not the killer all black one). This match continued with both guys beating the tar out of each other; Liger hits the best capo kicks ever and Samurai leans in to them like a MAN. The best part of the brawl section is when Samurai has Liger in the corner and it just punching him in jaw real hard, beating the hell out of Liger. The match gets highflying after that- with Liger powerbombing Samurai on the floor and hitting a crazy top rope rolling senton to the floor, as well as a moonsault to the floor. They do a near fall exchange with Liger reversing the rana which beat him in the first match with a powerbomb, and getting the duke with a top rope hurricanrana which was allot more

impressive before Pitbull 1 did it. The second best Samurai match ever and in Liger's top five, freaking awesome.

-phil!

An nCon II moment: HEY! We all talked to John D Williams! Except Phil, who always doesn't get a chance for some strange reason. Williams was watching bad wrestling on TV and we were watching the the new AJW so we accosted and belittled him for it. It was FUN!:) Lee is stoked beyond recognition about the Rock and Roll Express vs the Poffo Brothers Memphis tape I brought and I lament not getting to share in the viewing on Sunday.

@!@!@!@!@ NEW JAPAN TV 11/15/97 (taped on 10/31 from Hiroshima Sun Plaza)

The 3 on 3 Junior match was pretty great if a wee bit flawed.

Kanemoto vs Ka Shin:

Koji pummels the young bastard KaShin- WHICH WELL HE SHOULD for Ka Shin's cowering to the old farts in Liger's group. Koji tears him a brand new one- pulling him up a few times when he could have pinned him, because HEY! It's Koji Kanemoto! He's a dick. What do you want? As ever, the head of the League of Penises has his own arrogance and surliness to blame as the pathetically trampled Ka Shin licks into a cross armbreaker for the upset.

Ka Shin vs Takaiwa:

Takaiwa jumps in and Death Valley Driver drives the fiery young punk through the mat, killing him. Dead.

Takaiwa vs Liger:

This is where I got some problems. Takaiwa creams Liger in this fall- top rope DVD, Endless Powerbomb, you name it, Takaiwa hits it. Liger jumps up gets the peppy pin. It's called selling there, Liger. You know better than this.

Liger vs Ohtani:

This was great as Ohtani continues his hotstreak of wrestling like an actual MAN. He only cried a little in this one and he stomps bemasked Liger's head into the ground. Liger freaks out and takes it up top, hitting a plancha but this was Ohtani's baby, so Liger sells Shinjiro's lightning quick released German Suplex like he's been there. They do that Ohtani "crawling up to get at the old who is sitting on the turnbuckle" shtick, BUT they reverse it this time with Ohtani sitting on the turnbuckle, forcing Liger to play King Of The Hill. Ohtani gets the Spinning DDT just like everybody gets on him. Go figga. Ohtani busts him up with a Springboard Leg Lariat, killing him. Dead.

Ohtani vs Samurai:

OOOH this was good. Samurai starts off by leveling the surly champ bastard with the Oldguy Palm Thrust. I loved the deulling "Dick In The Corner" footsrape sequence. El hits all kinds of cool slopdrop variations off the top rope and on the floor. All in vain, Ohtani hands him his ass in Shinjiro's most impressive display since winning the belt. Postmatch was tres Memphis as Liger is incensed and Ohtani tells him to blow it out of his ass. Liger throws a chair and threatens to

fireball Ohtani or run him over in the parking lot with Brian Lee's Car or something. It was GREAT.

Muto/ nWo Sting vs Hashimoto/ Yamazaki:

HEY! Mutoh is working again! This wasn't great but it wasn't horrible. nWo Sting sells a Hash DDT like nobody in WCW will ever sell it. I will now refer to nWo Sting as the Good Sting.

Kensuke Sasaki vs Masahiro Chono for IWGP Heavyweight Title:

It's Official. I've gone insane. I'm certifiable. THIS match is GREAT. Well, the ending REALLY sucks, but the rest of this match is so good that the shitty ending doesn't change the fact that this was the best NJ heavyweight match I've seen since Koshinaka tore his Achilles tendon. Sasaki sells, the simple story of the NJ heavyweight match I keep reading about was here in full force and working it because these two are not complex wrestlers and this was not a complex match but they made so much of what small scope of psychology they were shooting for that it really worked well. Chono is really good in this, wearing down Sasaki, working for the STF, selling the schizo offense of Kensuke's really well, keeping the match focused and keeping Sasaki focused on selling the arm and the leg to make sure the story of the match doesn't drift off into the realm of the NEW JAPN NO-SELL zone- which this match avoided like the plague. This was intense and deeply into the 1988 NWA realm of main event matches. I dug this match the most.

@%@@% SINGLES GOING STEADY! *%*%*%*%*

NUMBER ONE WITH A BULLETT! HEY! I saw that TigerMask vs Dynamite Kid Water Bottle 2 outta 3 falls match at the nCon II. (Jon- who had to work the Night of the Bundy-Hooter Girls Trist so he missed the roadtrip, brought this and the Uncle Elmer Wedding all on the same tape so he is definately not a man you'd want to cross. :) I had seen this before but forgot that this was quite the Lawler vs Austin Idol level bloodfeud but with REALLY hot moves. I love the true sense of chaos that you get when you watch 80's All Japan (and 80's AJW I'm finding also). It's all over the place and so really AMERICAN in feel. Dynamite was such the awesome surly English Bastard. I wish we could have seen the Dibiase match before the voyage north.

HOLDING STEADY AT NUMBER TWO! From the 11/13/97 Pancrase Special, Guy Metzger beating the shit out of Masa Fuchi was pretty impressive. I'm guessing this was one of those "Pancrase Arrangements" where it's decided that neither take it to the mat for the most part, because both stand there and strike for all their worth which is of course Metzger's forte so he disposes of Fuchi with the HELLISH shot to the head. Fuchi crumples in a scary way.

CLIMBING THE CHARTS AT NUMBER THREE! From the spunky J'd promotion, the latest in the great resurgence of the True Grand Old Dame of Women's wrestling- Jaguar Yokota. Cooga/ Jaguar Yokota vs The Bloody Phoenix/ Lioness Asuka showcases the spectacularness of the at-one-time-thought-washed-up Jaguar Yakota. She drags Bloody's sorry ass to a good match and can make Asuka look still viable. Cooga.... Oh Cooga.....

THE DARKHORSE AT NUMBER FOUR! There is this weird match on the Pancrase special involving a dyed-blaze-red haired guy in with a guy I couldn't recognize. The mystery man hits a dragonscrew and everybody in the booth laughs. The Red-haired guy has PUNK written on his boots. He went on to win with a Poison Idea Cross-Arm Minor Threat Breaker, I believe.

&*~&*~&*~& THE HIDEOUS CUTOUT BIN!! #\$\$\$#\$#\$

- Jado vs Gedo was on the J'd show mentioned above and it's about as crappy as one would expect from a J'd undercard match, but the difference is that most of the time the J'd undercard has women who are leaning towards a life outside of wrestling because they have had such an illustriously long career wrestling (HEY! How's that for tact! WHOMP ASS!) against greener than green youngsters, so they have an excuse for sucking. These guys have been there and back and there is no use for this sub-WCW Pro display.

- HEY! Yuki Kondo vs Leon Dijk was about as boring as Pancrase can get. Think Ken Shamrock wrestling Oleg Taktarov with neither wanting to make a mistake. I still love both of these guys though, I just hope they never get these kids back in the ring together..

NEXT WEEK: BENOIT VS OHTANI! LUCHA LIBRE! WHATEVER I CAN GET MY HANDS ON!

NANIWA~!

Dean Rasmussen, Juventudiac.

Because we shoot to kill and you know we always will- itsa bomber itas bomber.
-everybody's dreamdad, Lemmy.